

Short-Tailed Shrew Records

By ROBERT W. NERO, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History

Mrs. J. Hubbard of Grenfell, Saskatchewan, recently submitted to the Museum a Short-tailed Shrew (*Blarina brevicauda*) which was collected by her at Grenfell on June 19, 1957. This specimen provides an important verification of the occurrence of *Blarina* within the known range, Grenfell being the locality from which this shrew was first reported for the province although no specimen was then available (see *Blue Jay* 1956, vol. 14:45).

A Short-tailed Shrew (skin and skull) received from James Luthi, taxidermist and amateur naturalist, Punnichy, and taken by him from a bat in July, 1954 extends the range previously described. Since this record is 40 miles north of the Qu'Appelle River valley it adds further weight to the belief that this shrew occurs over a wider area than is now known. It would be of particular interest to obtain records from Wat-

rous, Humboldt or Melfort since it seems likely that the range extends at least this far west. Somewhere in this general area one expects to find the limit of their range and this boundary has special ecological significance.

Another specimen brought in shortly before the *Blue Jay* went to press extends the known range of *Blarina* in Saskatchewan northward more than 37 miles. This shrew was found dead on July 23, 1957 in the yard of Bruce Smith of Connell Creek, eight miles northeast of Arborfield, Sask. and was brought to the museum by J. D. Smith of Regina. Presumably, it was caught and left in the yard by a cat, shrews generally seeming to be unpalatable.

A comparable record for Manitoba has just been published in the *Canadian Field-Naturalist* (vol. 71: 83) extending the range northward in Manitoba to The Pas.

New Silver-haired Bat Records

By ROBERT W. NERO, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History

A few Saskatchewan Silver-haired Bats (*Lasionycterus noctivagans*) have already been received by the Museum this year. The first of these is of particular interest since it was taken nearly three weeks earlier in the season than any previous record (see *BLUE JAY* 1957, vol. 15:38-41, 46, 86):

Specimen—May 13, 1957, Birmingham, in Pool elevator. Mrs. Steve Turchak. (Female, 2 embryos, crown-rump measurements—7 mm.).

Specimen—June 4, 1957, Kamsack, in School. Mrs. I. Podovinnikoff, Linden Valley School. (Female, 2 embryos, 9 mm.).

Specimen—June 10, 1957, Spirit Lake, on garage door. Miss Joyce Gunn. (Female, 2 embryos, 8 mm.).

These records suggest that the Silver-haired Bat occurs as a breeding species in the southern part of the province, as was indicated in a previous article. It seems unlikely that these pregnant females would still have been migrating; moreover, their appearance within buildings in June suggests attempts to find suitable nursery sites.



Photo by R. W. Fyfe
Live Silver-haired Bat in flight in Museum Board Room. Electronic-flash 1/1000 at f11.